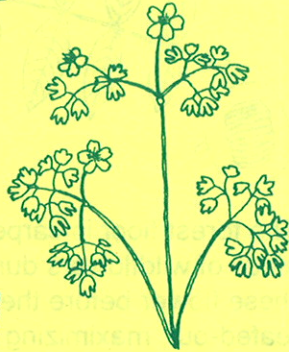
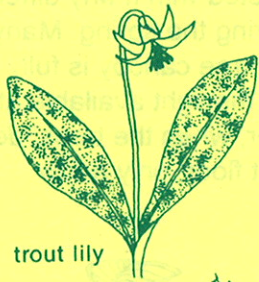


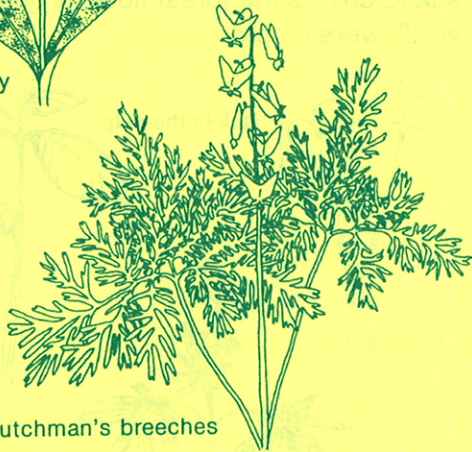
Large-flowered
trillium



false rue anemone



trout lily



dutchman's breeches

There are a few small openings within the upland forest which are filled with dense thickets of shrubs and saplings. These are formed when the wind blows down a tree, allowing light to reach the lower levels of the forest. Eventually one or a few saplings will grow into canopy trees. When this happens, the opening will gradually return to dense shade and the thicket will die back. You will walk through several of these openings which are in various stages of returning to densely shaded forest.

4. SHRUB ZONE The shore of this lake, and many others in Northeast Indiana, is surrounded by a zone of dense shrubs. The dense tangled branches of this zone are nearly impenetrable without a trail. Three species of dogwoods grow in this zone (pale, gray, and red osier). The easily recognizable showy flowering dogwood, which requires drier uplands, does not occur in this moist habitat.



gray dogwood

5. lakeshore Note how clear the water is, and how few plants grow in it. The water is high in calcium. Some of the calcium has precipitated out of the water to form a white deposit on the bottom called marl. The marly bottom discourages the growth of many plants.

As you stand along the lakeshore, note that you are looking at a rare sight. This large lake looks much as it did to the first settlers. We have gained many advantages from developing our natural resources, but there are also values in preserving a few areas in their natural state. They give us a perspective on our modern world that is difficult to get elsewhere.

Thank you for coming to Olin Lake Nature Preserve. The appearance of the preserve changes throughout the year as various plants appear and come into flower. Visit the preserve often to see these changes and perhaps better understand the natural world around you.

Notes

Directions:

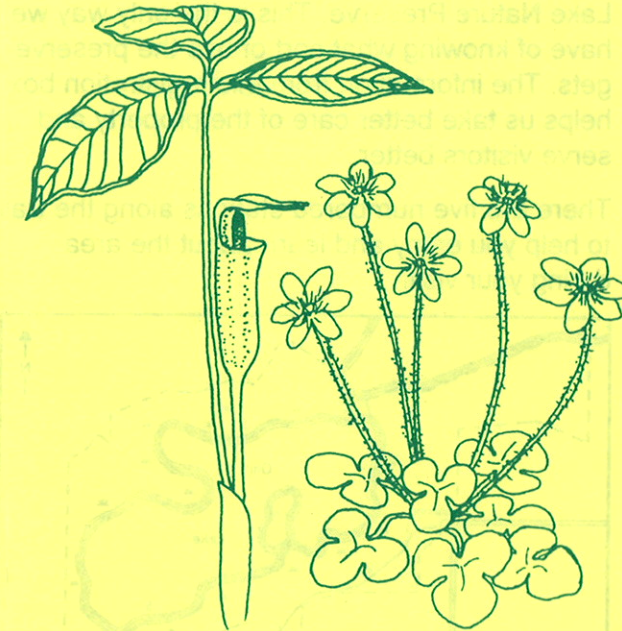
From Wolcottville, go north 2 mi. on SR 9. Turn west on Co. Rd. 600S. Proceed 2 mi., then turn right on Co. Rd. 125E and go north 0.5 mi. to a marked parking lot.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Nature Preserves
402 W Washington St Rm W267
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
(317) 232-4052

Olin Lake Nature Preserve

Self-guided Trail



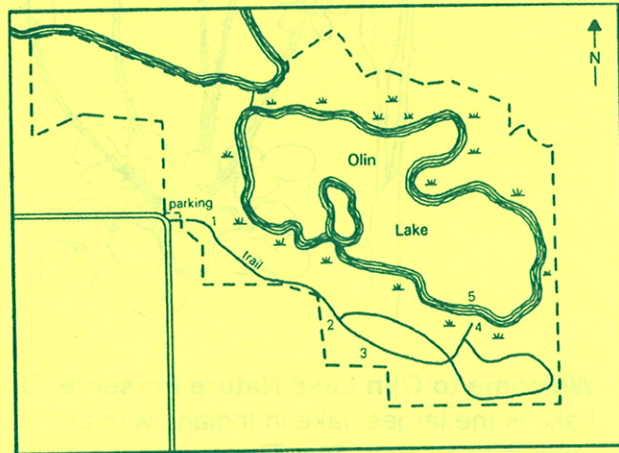
Welcome to Olin Lake Nature Preserve. Olin Lake is the largest lake in Indiana with an undeveloped shoreline. The preserve protects the entire shoreline of Olin Lake and a portion of the Oliver Lake shoreline as well. This trail will take you through upland and lowland woods down to the Olin Lake shore. Your view of Olin Lake will be uncluttered by buildings, utility poles and other works of man.

The preserve was set aside as a living museum of what Indiana was once like. You are welcome to walk the trails, looking, listening, photographing and enjoying the natural surroundings. Please do not disturb or remove anything from the preserve—plant, animal or mineral. Do not litter. And please stay on the marked trails; plant life is quickly trampled by people wandering off trails.

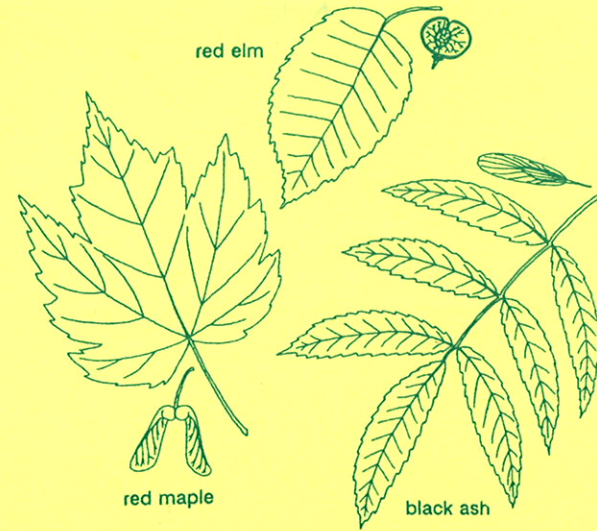
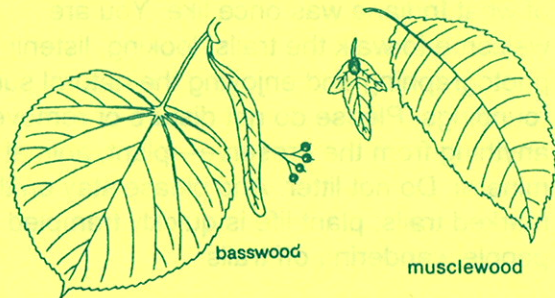
OLIN LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

REGISTRATION BOX Please make an entry in the registration box each time you visit Olin Lake Nature Preserve. This is the only way we have of knowing what sort of use the preserve gets. The information from this registration box helps us take better care of the property and serve visitors better.

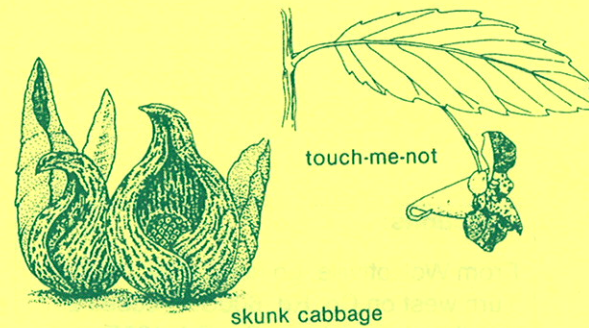
There are five numbered stations along the trail to help you enjoy and learn about the area during your visit.



1. BOARDWALK The soil in this area is very wet and mucky. Tree roots spread horizontally to gain some stability in the soft muck. Due to the high water table, roots do not grow as deeply here as in drier places. When large trees blow over, they can uproot a section of soil many feet in diameter.



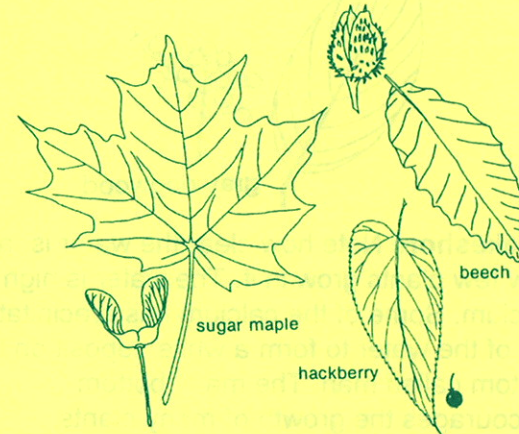
The small trees nearest to the boardwalk are called musclewood. The smooth gray bark of this tree has ripples almost like a flexing muscle, hence the name. Other trees of this low wet soil include basswood, red maple, black ash and red elm.



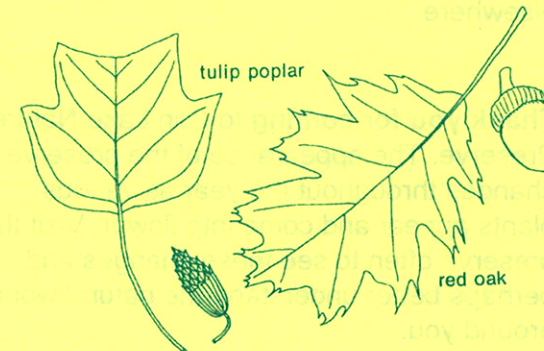
The two prominent herbaceous plants along the boardwalk are skunk cabbage and touch-me-not. Skunk cabbage produces unusual green or maroon flowers very early in the spring and long broad leaves during the summer. The crushed leaves give off a skunk-like smell. Touch-me-not has much smaller leaves and orange flowers in middle to late summer. The plant is several feet tall by the time it flowers.

When you leave the boardwalk you will walk along the edge of the upland with an extensive area of low, wet, mucky woods to your left.

2. TRAILS The trails can be walked in many directions. The trail arrows will direct you down the main trail to the lake, and along the side loops on your return to the parking lot. If you prefer, you can skip one or both of the side loops and return by the same route you took to the lake.



3. UPLAND WOODS Trees grow large and tall on this moist, but well-drained upland. The largest trees around you are beech, sugar maple, and red oak. There are also tulips, walnuts and hackberries. Many large trees were cut from this woods before it became a nature preserve, but quite a few large, old trees remain.



The forest floor is carpeted with many different kinds of wildflowers during the spring. Many of these flower before the tree canopy is fully leafed-out, maximizing the light available at this time of year. In summer, when the trees' dense shade covers the forest floor, only a few wildflowers bloom.

